

Message Text

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P 251604Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA PRIORITY
INFO USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, SOPN

SUBJECT: MAY 25 PRESS ROUNDUP

1. MURREY MARDER OF WASHINGTON POST REPORTED THAT ADMINISTRATION SOURCES REFUSED TO CONFIRM OR DENY ANY DETAILS OF SECRET TALKS SECRETARY VANCE HAD ON CAPITOL HILL TUESDAY WITH HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE. MARDER SAID SENATOR HENRY JACKSON "IS EXPECTED TO QUESTION VANCE CLOSELY THURSDAY ON CRUISE MISSILE DISCUSSIONS. ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS PRIVATELY CONCEDE THIS MAY BE FIRST CRITICAL TEST IN CONGRESS OF U.S. STRATEGY IN ONGOING SALT NEGOTIATIONS." VANCE WILL APPEAR IN CLOSED SESSION WEDNESDAY BEFORE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, MARDER NOTED, ADDING, "UNTIL NOW, PRESIDENT CARTER HAS ENJOYED WIDESPREAD SUPPORT AMONG SENATE NUCLEAR HARD-LINERS AND MODERATES FOR HIS ORIGINAL NUCLEAR ARMS PROPOSALS, WHICH WERE FLATLY REJECTED BY SOVIET UNION IN MARCH."

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2. SYNDICATED COLUMNISTS ROWLAND EVANS AND ROBERT NOVAK SAID SENIOR PENTAGON OFFICERS ARE CONCERNED "ABOUT SUDDEN EXCLUSION OF MILITARY FROM SALT POLICY MAKING." EVANS AND NOVAK CHARGED THAT JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF BRIEFED ONLY LAST WEEK ON NEW U.S. ARMS CONTROL PLAN "SOME TWO WEEKS AFTER IT WAS SUBMITTED TO RUSSIANS." ON TROOP WITHDRAWALS FROM KOREA AND SALT, "MILITARY'S COMPLAINT IS NOT SO MUCH THAT IT

DISAGREES WITH POLICY BUT THAT IT IS IGNORED IN POLICY FORMATION," ACCORDING TO EVANS AND NOVAK. THEY SAID GEN. BERNARD ROGERS, ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF, "HAS PUSHED PARTICULARLY HARD FOR MILITARY ROLE IN SALT POLICY MAKING.... WHILE PENTAGON HELPED PREPARE SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE'S NEGOTIATING POSITION IN MOSCOW, IT HAD NO PART IN DEVISING NEW, SOFTER STAND IN GENEVA."

3. RICHARD L. STROUT, IN MAY 24 CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, SAID SALT "MAY BE LAST CHANCE TO PREVENT WORLD FROM 'GOING NUCLEAR.'" STROUT SAID THAT WAS THRUST OF TESTIMONY GIVEN OVER PAST WEEKS BEFORE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ANTI-PROLIFERATION.

4. DAVID K. WILLIS, CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR CORRESPONDENT IN MOSCOW, SAID "KREMLIN SEES NEED TO KEEP ON TALKING WITH PRESIDENT CARTER ABOUT LIMITING NUCLEAR ARMS. BUT THIS DOES NOT MEAN ANY SUDDEN THAW IN CHILL ON U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS." KREMLIN, WILLIS SAID, REFUSES TO BE HURRIED AND REMAINS "SKEPTICAL ABOUT MR. CARTER'S ARMS INTENTIONS."

5. WASHINGTON STAR, IN MAY 24 EDITION, SAID DEPUTY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR SECURITY ASSISTANCE JOSEPH S. NYE, JR. TOLD SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON ARMS CONTROL THAT SOVIET UNION IS DOING A 220 MILLION DOLLAR ANNUAL BUSINESS BY ENRICHING URANIUM ORE SUPPLIED BY U.S. AND OTHER COUNTRIES AND SELLING IT TO WESTERN EUROPE. CONGRESSIONAL AIDES SAID SHIPMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE FOR AT LEAST SIX UNCLASSIFIED

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YEARS.

6. CONGRESSMAN DONALD J. MITCHELL (R-N.Y.), IN OP-ED ARTICLE IN MAY 24 WASHINGTON POST, SAID SOVIET SUPERIORITY IN CIVIL DEFENSE "SERIOUSLY UNBALANCES ARMAMENT QUESTION -- BETTER BALANCED EQUATION, LESS LIKELIHOOD OF WAR." HE SAID THIS SUPERIORITY GIVES SOVIETS "MARKED ADVANTAGE IN ANY CONFRONTATION OR NEGOTIATING SITUATION." MITCHELL FELT DEFENSE SECRETARY BROWN'S RESPONSE TO THIS SOVIET CHALLENGE IS TO CALL FOR "DEVELOPING NEW AND BETTER NUCLEAR KILLING CAPABILITY." IN URGING ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR CIVIL DEFENSE IN U.S., MITCHELL DECLARED "HELP BALANCE THAT EQUATION. WHY NOT A PROGRAM TO PROTECT OUR POPULATION RATHER THAN ADDITIONAL ONE TO DESTROY AN ENEMY?"

7. JOSEPH C. HARSCH, WRITING IN MAY 24 CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, SAYS MAY 14 SHOULD "GO DOWN AS AN IMPORTANT DATE IN EVOLUTION OF RELATIONS TOWARD EACH OTHER OF THREE GREATEST POWERS OF WORLD -- U.S., SOVIET UNION AND CHINA."

HARSCH SAID PRAVDA ON MAY 14 "PRINTED ONE OF THOSE HEAVILY UNDERLINED AND HENCE HIGHLY OFFICIAL PRONOUNCEMENTS WHICH MARK DECISIVE MOMENTS IN SOVIET POLICY." CHINA, ACCORDING TO PRAVDA, "IS MOST DANGEROUS COUNTRY IN WORLD AND REAL THREAT TO PEACE." HE SAID MOSCOW WOULD LIKE AMERICANS AND OTHER OUTSIDERS "TO REVISE THEIR PERCEPTION OF OUTSIDE WORLD AND PUT CHINA, NOT SOVIET UNION, IN ROLE OF PRIME DANGER TO GENERAL PEACE." WHY DO THIS ON MAY 14? HARSCH ASKED. ANSWER. "SALT TWO TALKS BETWEEN U.S. AND SOVIET UNION REOPENED IN GENEVA ON MAY 14. OBVIOUSLY, MOSCOW WANTED TO HAVE AMERICAN DELEGATION AT GENEVA AND ITS PRINCIPALS BACK IN WASHINGTON BE MORE UNDERSTANDING OF MOSCOW'S DESIRE TO KEEP CERTAIN WEAPONS WHICH WASHINGTON WOULD LIKE TO HAVE DROPPED FROM SOVIET ARSENAL. MOSCOW HAS LONG BEEN HINTING THAT MANY OF ITS STRATEGIC WEAPONS ARE INTENDED NOT TO MENACE UNITED STATES, BUT FOR 'DEFENSE' AGAINST 'CHINESE MENACE.'" HARSCH SAID CHINA IS UNCLASSIFIED

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APPARENTLY ABOUT TO GO INTO WORLD MARKET FOR NEW AND MORE SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS. WHERE? "EITHER IN WESTERN EUROPE OR IN U.S.," HE SAID. "U.S. IS NOT YET A LIKELY SOURCE.... MOST LIKELY SOURCE, THEN, WOULD BE WESTERN EUROPE. AND WESTERN EUROPE IS SENSITIVE TO SOVIET DISAPPROVAL." HARSCH SAID PRAVDA MANIFESTO "MIGHT EASE SALT TWO TALKS WITH AMERICANS" AND IT COULD "DISCOURAGE WESTERN EUROPEANS FROM SELLING NEW AND SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS TO CHINESE." VANCE

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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